

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2003  
FAIRFIELD, ID**

Chairman Daryle James, called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carol Blackburn, Bill Davis, Roger Parker, Bob Simpson, Vernon Ravenscroft, Bryan Ravenscroft, Clint Krahn, Mark Dallan, Joe Schwarzback, Jo Lowe and DEQ representative Jennifer Claire with Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for the November 26, 2002 TAC meeting were reviewed and revisions were made. Bob made the motion to approve them as corrected. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

Minutes of the November 26, 2002 General meeting were presented. Corrections were made. Bill Davis made the motion to approve them as amended. Clint seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

Copies of Dr. Saiid Dabestani's presentation in October were distributed. Also new copies of the Executive Board and their addresses were passed out.

Bob said there was a good representation of WAG Board members who attended the meeting at the Blaine County Courthouse regarding water resource issues.

Jo gave a report on the meeting held on Thursday to review the comprehensive plans from the cities and counties. She said they discussed the watershed from the headwaters on to the SNRA. They also discussed camper impact. The growth in camper use along the river was the main source of concern. The Forest Service is trying to address this issue. Jennifer mentioned this was a good place to start because what ever is set in the TMDL, the Forest Service has to do. Daryle questioned if we need to address the recreational use of the area to the Blaine County Commissioners since it is within their County.

Jo said that Sonny had suggested a meeting with the Forest Service, particularly Carol Brown from the SNRA, to talk about the fact that in the TMDL we have delisted certain streams in the area. He would need a guarantee that the streams would maintain their pristine quality. He also mentioned revisiting designation of the Big Wood River from Galena to the SNRA, as outstanding resource water, in order to protect it from any degradation. Sonny felt this was within the ability of the WAG to do and be proactive on. Legislative action may be required to get this done. Jennifer will ask Sonny to clarify the steps necessary to make sure the Big Wood River is protected in this manner.

Jo also reported on the main areas of concern for the municipalities (Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley and Bellevue) which were: storm water run off, snow removal, stream set backs, differing requirements between cities & county, diversions, acetic ponds which could affect water temperatures in the river, septic tanks, highways & river crossings. The county issues seems to be mainly focused on septic tank proliferation, monitoring issues affecting ground & surface water, diversions, acetic ponds temperature, definition of river vistas and view corridors by building too close to the river. There was some concern about the highway department possibly creating sediment when widening roads and crossing the river. These were some areas addressed in the comprehensive plans.

Also addressed was a gravel storage area by the river, west of Staten Crossing, which is owned by the Idaho Transportation department. It was felt this would be a good project to see if they would change their location by moving their gravel storage to the fenced side rather than the riverside of the property.

It was suggested that the WAG has an obligation to give the Counties a progress report because of the funds received each year to fund their operation. This would help substantiate the funds received. Jo offered to work on this with the assistance from others. She suggested doing a brochure on the watershed, water usage, history, facts and things that we could do to mitigate further quality problems. This could be directed to

various agencies as well as individuals, contractors and municipalities. Also we need to utilize our display boards by displaying maps and other useful information in libraries and other public places.

Jo will report at the February at the meeting in Carey on the cost of doing a brochure. Roger felt a web site would be beneficial to get the information out to people concerning the brochure and more information on the watersheds. He offered his assistance as he has designed web sites in the past. Roger and Jo will get together on this.

Jo said a 319-grant proposal, with Blaine County as the sponsoring agency, has made it to the State level. It is regarding growth issues and how it affects ground and surface waters in residential areas or other areas under growth impact. It proposes the idea of recycling or recapturing run off from homes and subdivisions for irrigation use. She passed out a letter that Blaine County had sent to Todd Maguire, Senior Watershed Scientist/Environmental Planner with DEQ. He had sent Blaine County articles regarding low cost development techniques that can be incorporated into subdivision and individual lot design as methods to increase protection of water quality by reducing sediment and other pollutant loadings to groundwater, stream and rivers.

The Blaine County Commissioners are very much interested in Blaine County being a demonstration site to show that the benefits of low impact development encourages the conservation of natural site assets, directs runoff to natural areas, mimics natural hydrology and processes, thus ensuring that runoff is better directed and natural features are used to conserve the natural hydrologic assets and functions of a site.

Todd will be making a presentation about Low Impact Development to the Water Quality taskforce on Thursday, March 6, 1:30 p.m. at the Blaine County Courthouse.

The Board discussed the problems with growth and water needs associated with such growth.

Jo mentioned that in San Diego they take all of their gray water and filter it so well that it becomes drinking water again. Carol mentioned that another area recycles all of its water by irrigating their landscaping and the golf course with the recycled water. Daryle said there are options out there to utilize the water but it is expensive. Roger suggested to the Board that the burns along the corridor project South of Hailey, could be greened up with water from the treatment plant. At this time, the quality standards have been met but the cost of getting water there is still being studied. The cost of recycling water is still high for small communities. There is a cost to growth.

Monday, February 24, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wood River Land Trust office was set for the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting.

Jo reported that three (3) MIT graduate students had been doing a study on the Big Wood River during the month of January. They had been working on a nitrate-loading model that would be their senior project. They chose the Wood River Watershed for this project. Their professor will be here for another month but it is unknown if she will be here for the next meeting. Jo will check and see if she would be available to give a presentation in February.

The WAG February's meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Carey at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. The March meeting was scheduled for Fairfield on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Sawtooth National Forest Service Office.

Meeting adjourned.

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Daryle James, Chairman